

VZCZCXRO1896
PP RUEHLA
DE RUEHCL #0232/01 0591552
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 281552Z FEB 06
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6300
INFO RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DOJ WASHDC
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 7452
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0441
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0177
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0915
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3625
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0244
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0317
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0157
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0241
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0323
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0207
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0206
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 2763
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 1887
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0145
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 2149
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0206
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0189
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 0219
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 0254
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0073
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0316
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 4654
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH 1103
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 0080
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0576
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 19 CASABLANCA 000232

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE ALSO FOR G/TIP, INL/TIP, DRL/IL, DRL/BA, NEA/MAG,
NEA/RA, IWI, PRM, AND G

STATE PLEASE PASS USAID AND USTR

LABOR FOR ILAB TANYA RASA, SUDHA HALEY, EILEEN MUIRAGUI,
AND MARCIA EUGENIO

GENEVA FOR LABATT

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#) [MO](#)

SUBJECT: MOROCCO 2005 ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REFS: (A) 06 STATE 00003836 (B) 05 CASABLANCA 1068

(C) 05 RABAT 2278	(D) 05 CASABLANCA 1321
(E) 05 CASABLANCA 1052	(F) 05 SECSTATE 230010
(G) 05 RABAT 2241	(H) 05 RABAT 2177
(I) 05 BRUSSELS 3796	(J) 05 BAMAKO 1344
(K) 05 NOUAKCHOTT 0059	(L) 05 RABAT 0343

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect
accordingly.

¶2. (U) This cable responds to action request (ref A) for
updated information on the Moroccan government's efforts to
combat trafficking in persons from March 2005 to March 2006.

¶13. (SBU) Over the past year, the GOM continued to prioritize its law enforcement activities intended to investigate, prosecute, and deter what the GOM describes as "human-trafficking mafias." According to the Ministry of Interior, Morocco has adopted a strategy to fight trafficking based on five major pillars: security measures, legislation, the creation of institutions specializing in fighting illegal migration, international cooperation, and public awareness campaigns. It should be underlined, however, that the GOM continues to make no distinction between migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The GOM understands both activities as illegal and exploitative, which often result in the abuse and even the demise of Moroccans and third country nationals who seek to emigrate clandestinely.

¶14. (U) Morocco's geographic position as a natural conduit for sub-Saharan trafficking was highlighted this October when 11 Africans lost their lives in and around the two Spanish enclaves, Melilla and Ceuta, in Northern Morocco (ref B) as they stormed fences surrounding the European gateways. Despite efforts made by both Spain and Morocco to stem trafficking and illegal migration in the last few years, the problem persists and no clear short-term solutions seem to be at hand. As an example of the frustration following the October fence storming, the best proposal anyone could come up with is to build a third fence surrounding the enclaves. Throughout the year the two

CASABLANCA 00000232 002 OF 019

countries have reiterated their cooperation and commitment to stemming the flow of illegal migrants across the border in the north as well as in the waterways between Morocco and the Canary Islands.

¶15. (SBU) In addition, Moroccan officials continue to assert that the Polisario orchestrates the illicit transfer of migrants in the Western Sahara and northern Mauritania to the Canary Islands (ref K provides Embassy Nouakchott's views). UN officials in the Western Sahara, however, claim they have no evidence that the Polisario is involved in migrant smuggling in any organized or sanctioned way.

¶16. (SBU) Morocco continues to work closely with the Spanish Government on resolving the issue of the more than 6000 Moroccan minors living illegally in Spain. To date, only a few have been returned Morocco due to lack of adequate facilities available upon their return, according to Spanish officials in charge of migration matters in Morocco. The Spanish Government refuses to repatriate the minors until they are sure the young Moroccans have a safe and healthy environment available in Morocco. Spain has recently pledged funds for just such a rehabilitation center in the Tangier area. The facility, which will assist in the minors' reinsertion into Moroccan society, will be a shelter where the children can receive counseling, health care, remedial education, and job training before being reunited with their families or placed in regular schools.

¶17. (U) The following paragraphs are keyed to questions presented in ref A.

Overview of Morocco's Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling

¶18. (SBU/21.A) Morocco is a country of origin and destination for domestic trafficking, generally involving young rural girls recruited to work as child maids. It is also a popular country of transit for internationally trafficked men, women, and children. It is a country of origin for men, women, and minors trafficked to European countries and to a

lesser extent the Middle East. In 2005, the Government of Morocco, international organizations, and numerous nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), claimed the number of Moroccan minors being trafficked and smuggled into Spain,

CASABLANCA 00000232 003 OF 019

Italy, and other European countries, increased significantly. Spain alone is reporting a 66.5 percent increase in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the same period in 2004. Spain and Morocco continue to work jointly on a solution to the problem. Recently the International Organization for Migration (IOM) proposed a plan to address the problem of trafficked minors. The IOM plans to work with the governments of Morocco and Italy, and Moroccan NGOs to combat the problem. The first phase of this cooperation will be a survey to measure the magnitude of the problem. The survey will identify the most vulnerable persons, pinpoint the regions from which persons are trafficked, and propose the most effective methods of prevention.

¶9. (U/21.A) According to a spokesman from the Ministry of the Interior (MOI), the number of Moroccan would-be immigrants crossing from Morocco to Europe decreased by 25 percent in 2005, and by 50 percent from Morocco's southern coast to the Canary Islands. He also claimed that more than 300 trafficking networks have been dismantled over the last year.

¶10. (SBU/21.B) Domestic trafficking in Morocco has historically involved three vulnerable groups as victims: (a) girls sent involuntarily to serve as child maids, (b) girls offered as child brides, and (c) women forced to perform sexual services. There have been several instances where Moroccan women were unknowingly trafficked to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Syria to become sex workers after being promised jobs as domestics. It appears that the great majority of the girls and young women pressed into domestic servitude and sexual tourism are from isolated rural villages in the Middle and High Atlas Mountains. Human rights advocates charge that "intermediaries" approach poor parents promising that their daughters will have a chance at a better life as child brides or child maids.

¶11. (SBU/.21.B) Sub-Saharan Africans transiting Morocco, destined for Europe, also fall victim to traffickers. According to Dr. Javier Gabaldon, the General and Medical Coordinator for the Moroccan office of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the majority of female clandestine sub-Saharan migrants with whom he came into contact while providing medical care and humanitarian assistance, were pressured into prostitution and involuntary servitude to pay for food and shelter by their "handlers," whether Nigerian,

CASABLANCA 00000232 004 OF 019

Moroccan, Algerian, or Spanish.

¶12. (SBU/21.B) As a country of origin, where the government concedes at least 20 percent of the population earns less than USD 38 per month, Morocco's rural and urban poor are a ready pool for traffickers and migrant smugglers, who promise a better life to their recruits. Thus, most internal trafficking of persons occurs in Morocco from rural poor areas to the cities. According to UNICEF and local NGO social welfare advocates, traffickers or "intermediaries" habitually visit isolated rural villages in the Atlas Mountains where they persuade desperate parents that their daughters would be better off as child brides or child maids. Similarly, these intermediaries serve as the go-between to find employment for adolescent boys. In rare instances, these youngsters and teenagers have ended up as sex workers in popular Moroccan tourist destinations, namely Marrakech, Agadir and Fez.

¶13. (U/21.B) Political will exists at the highest levels of government to combat trafficking in persons. King Mohammed VI has identified combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling as "top priorities" and he has backed-up this commitment with numerous meetings and discussions with the Government of Spain and other EU countries. Morocco recognizes problems with trafficking as both a transit and origination country and has asked both the U.S. and the EU for assistance with border challenges and repatriation issues. In addition, in 2005, Morocco in cooperation with the IOM, hosted a conference on migration and religion. Representatives from 44 countries, including many sub-Saharan and South Asian countries, participated in the conference.

¶14. (SBU/21.B/C) Foreign economic migrants have increasingly sought to enter Europe through the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla or cross from Laayoune (Western Sahara) or Tan-Tan to the Canary Islands. While most come from sub-Saharan Africa, it is becoming increasingly common to find Asians from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan attempting the journey. On a monthly basis the border patrol and gendarmerie arrest hundreds of sub-Saharan Africans and Arabs who have crossed the Morocco-Algeria border. Many of these arrests occur in Tangier, the northeast city of Oujda, and in Nador, just outside Melilla. The situation peaked in October 2005 when thousands of sub-Saharan migrants stormed the two Spanish

CASABLANCA 00000232 005 OF 019

enclaves which resulted in the death of 11 clandestine migrants (ref B). The GOM also estimated that there are still approximately 10,000 illegal sub-Saharan clandestine migrants in Morocco awaiting an opportunity to slip into European territory, and another 20,000 poised at the Algerian border waiting to enter the country.

¶15. (SBU/21.C) While the GOM continues its efforts to fight trafficking, the cost is a hardship. The GOM has continuously requested help from the EU and individual countries. Some joint programs, such as waterway patrols between Spain and Morocco, have been successful in helping financially and in stemming the problem. There is evidence that lower level corruption exists. On more than one occasion in 2005, police have been arrested for illegal involvement in migrant smuggling rings.

¶16. (U/21.D) Press reports of arrests of Moroccans generally cite "hundreds" of clandestine migrants. Arrests by the Moroccan Navy are a fraction of the total arrests. Incidents of migrant smuggling, which is rampant in Morocco, are most often treated as trafficking in persons. Thus, the proportion of these persons being trafficked remains open to question since GOM figures do not differentiate among those who are trafficked from the vast majority who are voluntary economic migrants.

¶17. (SBU/21.D) The number of Moroccan women compelled to perform sexual services remains difficult to determine as this sort of activity is culturally unacceptable and is not exclusive to large urban centers where NGOs are more active in monitoring and confronting such problems. Many of these women initially resort to prostitution because of dire economic circumstances and it remains difficult to differentiate between those who have been forced or coerced by others into such behavior and those who have voluntarily opted for prostitution as a means of economic support.

¶18. (SBU/21.D) Morocco is generally not a destination for trafficked victims from outside the country. However, according to senior GOM officials, numerous destitute female Nigerian migrants found living illegally in northeastern Morocco were forced to prostitute themselves in return for protection, food, and shelter. Recently, the IOM joined with the Governments of Morocco and Nigeria to repatriate 1000 Nigerians, 400 of whom were women and children. Many

of these women claim to have been coerced into these types

CASABLANCA 00000232 006 OF 019

of situation before seeking help.

Prevention

¶19. (U/22.A) The government acknowledges that trafficking and migrant smuggling are problems.

¶20. (U/22.B) In November 2003, in response to a royal edict issued by King Mohamed VI, the GOM established an overarching agency for migration matters, the National Agency for Migration and Border Surveillance. This agency reports to both the Palace and the MOI. Within the MOI, the Director General of Internal Affairs, Director of International Cooperation, and Chief of Immigration are responsible for directing policy. Within the Office of the Prime Minister, there is a secretariat for migration matters. Other responsible parties include the police, gendarmes, and border patrol of the MOI, the Ministry of Defense (the army and navy), the Ministry of Social Development, Family, and Solidarity (specifically, its division of Family, Solidarity, and Social Action), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Education, the Delegated Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and the Customs Service.

¶21. (U/22.B) On a routine basis, moreover, officials of the Labor Department, which has an Office of Children's Affairs dedicated to reducing child labor, meet with ILO-IPEC and UNICEF representatives to harmonize policy and establish programs designed to combat child labor and the exploitation of children, notably those working as child maids or junior artisans

¶22. (U/22.C) Morocco's Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation announced in February 2003 that the government would join with concerned NGOs in conducting an awareness campaign targeting youth. This campaign alerts children to the inherent dangers of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Morocco's consulates in Spain and Italy have conducted similar outreach to the expatriate community to dissuade its members against aiding the "trafficking mafias." Consular officers provide counseling services, especially to unattended adolescents, who are encouraged to repatriate. These awareness programs began in 2004 and are ongoing.

CASABLANCA 00000232 007 OF 019

¶23. (U/22.D) In conjunction with USDOL, ILAB-IPEC, UNICEF, and the governments of various EU countries, Morocco has a number of programs underway designed to keep and/or return children to school. These include the USDOL-funded "ADROS" program aiding underage children in the labor market and a USDOL ILO-IPEC program benefiting rural working children.

¶24. (U/22.D) In addition to the campaigns listed above, the IOM currently has several projects underway and in the planning stage. In spring 2006, the IOM will complete a social and educational center in Tetouan aimed at the population most vulnerable to trafficking. IOM is also currently developing a plan to assist and educate children and minors at-risk of being trafficked or lured into clandestine migration.

¶25. (U/22.F) The GOM relies heavily on NGOs, other relevant organizations, and civil society to address the issue of trafficking. The GOM has established excellent relations with these organizations.

¶26. (U/22.G) Morocco has noticeably increased the monitoring of its northeast border with Algeria and along its far southwest Atlantic border, including the disputed Western Sahara territory, facing the Canary Islands to interdict trafficking and migrant smuggling. It has also stepped up enforcement in Tangier and at its airports and train stations. The Moroccan government has a substantial and well-organized immigration, customs, and security apparatus that closely monitors the country's borders.

Border patrol officers routinely find clandestine migrants hidden in trucks and freighters destined for Spain.

Unfortunately, a rugged northern coastline, which is difficult to patrol, and the close proximity of Europe over the narrow Strait of Gibraltar, make it possible for small boats to transport illegal migrants to Spain without detection. Moroccan authorities also cite difficulty in monitoring the long border with Algeria, by which clandestine sub-Saharan migrants transit into Morocco, especially as (they claim) Algerian authorities make little effort to stem this or cooperate.

¶27. (U/22.H) The GOM established two interagency coordinating bodies, the "National Observatory of Migration," which serves as an "anti-trafficking in persons task force" authorized to formulate policy, and the

CASABLANCA 00000232 008 OF 019

"National Agency for Migration and Border Surveillance," which conducts investigations and make arrests.

¶28. (U/22.H) The Office of the Prime Minister's Secretariat for Immigration Affairs serves as the coordinating office for agencies concerned with migration and illegal immigration. Anti-trafficking activities are primarily carried out by the Interior Ministry, although it involves different entities falling under it: clandestine immigration is the purview of immigration officials; prostitution falls under the police; while child brides are under the purview of local authorities who ultimately report to the Interior Ministry. Two ministries are chiefly responsible for child maid issues: the Ministry of Employment and Professional Training and the Ministry of National Education, specifically its Department of Non-Formal Education, which tries to provide remedial education and job training to child maids and "apprentice artisans." Prosecution of individuals charged with trafficking or violation of labor laws falls to the MOJ. Within the Ministry of Social Development, Family, and Solidarity, the Office of Family, Solidarity, and Social Action develops policies to assist women and children, including those who are victims of trafficking, but its resources for implementing such policies remain very limited.

¶29. (SBU/22.H) Over the past five years, the GOM has drawn closer to Spain and the EU in the common fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Morocco engages in bilateral efforts with Spain, such as joint naval patrols begun in mid-February 2004. Morocco has continued to work closely with other governments as well. It is a member of working groups on immigration with both the EU and its fellow Maghreb countries. Internationally, the government participates actively in U.N.-sponsored activities relating to trafficking. Morocco has also recently ratified a proposal allowing the IOM to officially open an office in Rabat.

¶30. (SBU/22.J) In 2003, the GOM completed its national action plan to combat trafficking in persons. The following were and continue to be involved in developing anti-trafficking policies and programs: MFA Delegated Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad, Office of the Chief of Migration and Immigration Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Interior, Chief of Immigration,

CASABLANCA 00000232 009 OF 019

Ministry of Interior.

Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers

¶31. (U/23.A) On November 20, 2003, Morocco's new Immigration and Emigration Act 02-03, entitled "Entry and Stay of Foreigners in the Kingdom of Morocco, Illegal Emigration and Immigration," was published in the Official Bulletin. Under Title II, Articles 50-56, the law prohibits trafficking in persons and sets specific punishments. It severely punishes people involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking, including public officials who take a hear-no-evil and see-no-evil approach to violations of Moroccan immigration law. Title II makes it abundantly clear that all individuals and their accomplices involved in human trafficking face high fines and prison sentences. Asset forfeiture is also established, and the courts are given extra-territorial judicial powers to rule on violations of Moroccan law, which take place outside Morocco. For the first time, Moroccan immigration law holds public officials accountable. The act criminalizes acts not only carried out by the operatives, but also by those who provide safe haven to smuggled persons and punishes security officers who fail to carry out their duties. The law is especially harsh on public officials who are caught promoting illegal emigration and/or migration.

Article 50 stipulates a fine of 3,000 to 10,000 dirhams (ten dirhams equals roughly one USD) and/or one to six months imprisonment, aside from any punishments under the Penal Code, be assessed against any person attempting to enter and/or exit Moroccan territory by land, sea, or air by presenting a fraudulent travel document(s) or by traveling under an assumed name or by using falsified documents. It also prohibits attempted entry/departure from points other than recognized border crossings and designated points of departure.

Article 51 provides that a prison sentence of two to five years and a fine of 50,000 to 500,000 dirhams be levied against any public official (whether in charge of or a member of the "public forces"), travel agent, or transportation personnel operating carriers by land, water, and/or air who attempts to facilitate the illegal entry or exit of a person.

CASABLANCA 00000232 010 OF 019

Article 52 dictates a prison sentence of six months to three years and a fine of 50,000 to 500,000 dirhams shall be assessed against anyone found to have facilitated, organized, or participated in the illegal entry or exit of Moroccans and/or foreign nationals in a manner detailed in Articles 50-51 and whether or not payment was made for his/her services.

Article 52 also specifies increased penalties of 10 to 15 years in prison and a fine of 500,000 to 1,000,000 dirhams be levied against individuals who are repeat offenders and are discovered to have been habitually involved in human smuggling.

Penalties of 10 to 15 years imprisonment and fines of 500,000 to 1,000,000 dirhams are to be assessed against individual members of any association or cartel created for the express purpose of migrant smuggling. Leaders of these associations are also subject to the penalties prescribed in Article 294, Paragraph 2, of the Penal Code.

Moreover, Article 52 inflicts even greater punishments of 15 to 20 years in prison should the would-be emigrant or immigrant suffer serious injury and "permanent incapacity"

is the result. If the migrant is killed while being transported, the trafficker is subject to life imprisonment.

Should convictions be handed down, Article 53 grants the courts the right to confiscate the means of transport, whether public, private, or rental, used to commit violations of the law. Transportation assets of trafficking ring members and their accomplices may also be seized, whether or not they participated in the operation.

Article 54 orders that a fine of 10,000 to 1,000,000 dirhams be assessed against any corporate entity found guilty of immigration infractions as specified above. Corporate entities are also subject to confiscation orders.

Article 55 requires that judgments be made public in three daily newspapers, which cover the jurisdiction where the case was heard.

Finally, Article 56 establishes that the Moroccan courts may hear cases brought against foreigners accused of violating Moroccan immigration law. The courts are given extra-

CASABLANCA 00000232 011 OF 019

territorial jurisdiction in Article 56, which says they may rule on infractions of Moroccan law, which occur outside Morocco's borders and are committed by non-Moroccans.

¶32. (U/23.B) Penalties under articles 497-504 and 540-549 for traffickers deceiving, defrauding, or coercing individuals are from six months to five years' imprisonment and fines of 200 dirhams (roughly USD 20) to 5000 dirhams (roughly USD 500), depending upon whether minors have been corrupted.

¶33. (U/23.C) The penalty for rape or forcible sexual assault is dependent upon the involvement of minors and whether the act was deemed violent. Rape offenders can be imprisoned for 5-10 years (article 486). Sexual offenses against minors, not involving violence (i.e., intercourse not deemed rape), are punishable by five to ten years' imprisonment (article 484). Perpetrators of similar acts with violence (rape) face 10-20 years in prison (article 485); if this results in victim's loss of virginity, the offender faces 20-30 years' in jail (article 488). Actual sentences handed down may be less or more severe depending on whether it is a first offense or attenuating circumstances existed.

¶34. (U/23.D) While prostitution and solicitation of prostitutes is illegal, local law enforcement often casts a blind eye to the problem. Prostitution is commonplace in large cities like Casablanca, Marrakech, Fez, and Agadir, but also poses a problem in smaller cities and in rural areas as well. The government has prosecuted cases against individuals who coerced or forced women into performing sexual services.

¶35. (U/23.E) According to MOI reports, the government claims to have broken up more than 300 trafficking/smuggling rings in 2005.

¶36. (SBU/23.F) Various types of individuals are behind migrant smuggling and human trafficking in Morocco: organized criminal gangs are responsible for coordinating some of the clandestine migration to Europe, particularly the sub-Saharan transiting Morocco; the above mentioned "intermediaries" who for a fee work as professional placement agents for the parents of potential child brides, child maids, and apprentice artisans; parents of rural girls

CASABLANCA 00000232 012 OF 019

who act as their own "brokers" for farming out their

children as child brides or maids; and financially motivated criminals who coerce young women into prostitution. Some Moroccan authorities acting independently, such as border officials or local police, may also turn a blind eye, in exchange for money, to facilitate trafficking.

¶37. (SBU/23.F) Most trafficking rings in Morocco are small crime groups, although the GOM refers to them as "trafficking mafias." Many of the 300 "mafias" discovered in 2005 were freelancers or rings working with a handful of people. "Brokers" placing young girls in domestic jobs often work independently. In tourist towns, there are unofficial reports that hotel personnel arrange to transport girls and young women from rural areas to cities to work as prostitutes. Additionally, there is anecdotal evidence that bartenders and taxi drivers act as "pimps" and arrange to bring the rural women to the larger tourist cities. There is no evidence that GOM officials are involved in any way.

¶38. (U/23.G) Security forces are actively engaged in investigating, pursuing, and dismantling human trafficking and smuggling rings. The government claims more than 300 rings were discovered and disbanded in 2005. While the majority of these operations concerned only migrant smuggling, the GOM learned that some expeditors had pressured sub-Saharan African women to prostitute themselves in order to receive food and shelter while others were involved in false job recruitment schemes in Spain, Italy and Saudi Arabia.

¶39. (SBU/23.G) A lengthy investigation culminated in February 2006, when the GOM dismantled a large international network responsible for trafficking clandestine migrants from India. According to the General Directorate for National Security (DGSN), the far-reaching organization had accomplices along the border between Morocco and Algeria, as well as in African transit countries, the Gulf States, and Spain. Moroccan Police arrested 70 suspects, among them a policeman working at Casablanca's Mohamed V international Airport. In addition the DGSN claims that an unspecified number of the Spanish Civil Guard were involved.

¶40. (U/23.H) Law enforcement officers often participate in training and seminars that cover trafficking when these programs are offered by other countries. Training has been given by the France, Germany, Spain, and Saudi Arabia,

CASABLANCA 00000232 013 OF 019

according to MOI officials.

¶41. (U/23.I) According to the MOJ, Morocco has numerous agreements with other countries regarding investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Those most frequently cited are with Spain, France, Italy, and Egypt. Statistics on the number of international investigations are not currently available.

¶42. (U/23.J) The GOM has not extradited individuals charged with trafficking, although government officials note that Morocco does have bilateral extradition treaties with relevant countries. Morocco does not extradite its nationals in accordance with Article 721 of the Penal Code.

¶43. (U/23.K) There is no evidence of national government involvement or tolerance for trafficking. On a local level however, there are rumors that public servants acting on their own seek pay-offs or bribes to look the other way in some cases of migrant smuggling. The government is attempting to crack down on corruption within the public sector. In order to conform to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption which Morocco signed in December 2003, the GOM announced a new project aimed at creating an independent body to fight corruption. In addition in 2005 the Prime Minister proposed a national anti-corruption program, comprised of 23 general preventive and 31 sector-oriented measures

¶44. (U/23.L) We have no evidence that any government official has been involved with trafficking. The GOM prosecutes to the full extent of the law its own officials, as it does other individuals, involved in trafficking.

¶45. (SBU/23.M) Revisions to the Penal Code enacted in December 2003 provide for extraterritorial coverage in cases of child sexual abuse and child sex tourism. In 2005, ten foreigners were prosecuted for pedophilia or trafficking, one is still under investigation and two cases were dismissed for lack of evidence. In one highly publicized case in July 2005, a Belgian national allegedly coerced nearly 80 Moroccan women, including a number of minors, into posing for pornographic photos by promising to marry them and take them to Europe. The photos were put on the internet and later made into a CD and sold throughout Agadir, all without the consent of the women. Thirteen of the women, one a minor, were arrested and many more were

CASABLANCA 00000232 014 OF 019

investigated since pornography is strictly forbidden. The Belgian national returned to Brussels and remains free.

¶46. (U/23.N) Morocco is a signatory to ILO Conventions 138 (adopted March 19, 1999; ratified January 6, 2000) and 182 (adopted November 24, 2000; ratified January 26, 2001). These two ILO Conventions were published in the Official Bulletin on December 4, 2003. They went into immediate effect. Morocco has adopted the UN International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified June 21, 1993). Morocco signed the Sale of Children Protocol supplementing the Rights of the Child Convention in September 2000. Moroccan law has been amended to comply with the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. The Penal Code was revised in December 2003 to incorporate these changes. Morocco is a signatory to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, supplementing the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Morocco is a party (since May 1959) to the Geneva Conventions against slavery, ILO Conventions 29 and 105 (ratified May 1957 and December 1966 respectively) against forced labor, and the 1949 UN Convention against trafficking in persons (ratified August 1973). In June 2003, Morocco ratified the International Convention on the Rights of Migrants and Their Families.

Protection and Assistance to Victims

¶47. (SBU/24.A) Morocco's Center for Migrant Rights provides counseling services, including an explanation of one's legal and civil rights, to migrants; however, legal representation is not offered, nor is shelter, medical or psychological services. While in 2003, Morocco and Spain agreed in principle on the repatriation of an estimated 6000 Moroccan minors living in Spain, only a handful have actually been returned due to Morocco's lack of care facilities for the minors. Spain will not begin repatriation of the minors until adequate facilities, where the children can receive counseling, health care, remedial education, and job training before being reunited with their families or placed in regular schools, have been established. The IOM facility mentioned above will provide some of these types of services and may act as a model for future projects. The GOM relies on the NGO community to provide most services to victims of

CASABLANCA 00000232 015 OF 019

trafficking.

¶48. (U/24.A) Child maids who have fled abusive employers or women forced into prostitution that have fled their

madams/pimps, have been assisted by Moroccan authorities, specifically, the Secretary of State for Family, Solidarity, and Social Action. The former Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs developed a national strategy to combat violence against women which includes training for social workers to deal with women and girls who are victims of violence. Victims of child labor and forced prostitution are often aided by local NGOs active in combating those problems.

¶49. (U/24.A) Child brides who have fled abusive husbands or in-laws are unlikely to receive any government assistance unless they are placed in a detention center for their own protection. This may also be the case when they have borne a child, but the marriage was not officiated and paternity has not been recognized. These detention centers provide basic health care and education (often the first formal education the mother will have received). Young, single mothers also receive assistance from a variety of NGOs, notably INSAF, the Moroccan League for the Protection of Children, and Solidarit Feminine.

¶50. (U/24.B) The GOM provides modest funds to national NGO's offering shelter and services to victims of trafficking. In addition, it offers teachers and social workers to support national NGOs working with child maids. At the Ministry of Labor, it provides offices to the International Labor Organization (ILO)'s International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), which is working on the child maid problem. The GOM allows authorized NGO's to solicit tax-free donations from citizens, residents, and companies, indirectly assisting these non-profit elements of civil society to provide services to trafficking victims.

¶51. (U/24.C) Those potential victims of trafficking who are detained, jailed, or deported, are usually third country nationals transiting Morocco en route to Europe. Those individuals are prosecuted for violation of immigration laws. Morocco is a signatory of the Convention for Protection of Immigrants and Their Families.

CASABLANCA 00000232 016 OF 019

¶52. (U/24.C) In 2003 Parliament changed the Penal Code so that runaway child maids may be administratively returned to their families instead of being arrested for vagrancy. If returning them to their parents is not possible or feasible, they should be placed in separate youth centers, not mixed in with juvenile delinquents.

¶53. (SBU/24.D) Morocco's November 2003 Immigration and Emigration Act carefully defines the rights of illegal immigrants, economic migrants, and asylum seekers in Title II, Article 38. This article also pinpoints the prerogatives immigration officials have in protecting Morocco's borders. The statute (and the way the law is implemented) blurs the distinction between trafficked persons and economic migrants. It sets forth limits to how long a non-Moroccan may be detained and under what conditions. The law furthermore lists the rights which an intending immigrant, non-resident alien, casual visitor, or trafficked person is entitled. During and after the October incidents in Ceuta and Melilla (ref C), however, there were reports from MSF, IOM, and other organizations that human rights of the non-Moroccan migrants were violated when Moroccan military transported hundreds of sub-Saharan illegal economic migrants to the Algerian border and left them in the desert with little or no food or water.

¶54. (U/24.E) While victims are not encouraged to file civil suits against traffickers, they often testify on behalf of the GOM when it seeks to prosecute trafficking cases.

¶55. (U/24 .F) We are unaware of any specific protections,

other than laws forbidding the various forms of trafficking, that the government provides to victims of trafficking or witnesses in cases against traffickers.

¶156. (SBU/24.G) Morocco offers specialized training for government officials in how to deal with victims of trafficking. The government has begun training its diplomats in countries that are prime destination or transit countries, i.e., Spain and Italy, for Moroccan victims of trafficking. Given the GOM's commitment to repatriate minors, we suspect Moroccan diplomats are encouraged to develop relationships with NGOs serving trafficking victims as part of their contact work in the labor or social spheres.

¶157. (U/24.H) Morocco is working with NGOs and the

CASABLANCA 00000232 017 OF 019

international community, specifically Spain and Italy, to establish shelters and a system to assist minors who have been the victims of trafficking.

¶158. (U/24.I) The most outspoken organization dedicated to the eradication of trafficking and migrant smuggling is the "Friends and Families of Clandestine Immigration Victims," headed by Khalil Jemmah. In addition, several local NGOs focus on women's and children's issues and directly or indirectly work to mitigate the incidence and abuse of child brides, child maids and women forced into sexual services. The work of these NGOs includes publicizing and monitoring the child maid problem; providing remedial education, vocational training, health care, and recreational opportunities to child maids; rehabilitating and educating street children, delinquents and runaways; assisting single mothers to become financially independent; educating youth and prostitutes (male and female) about the dangers of unprotected sex; and advocating women's and children's rights.

¶159. (U/21.I) The following (alphabetical) list outlines those Moroccan NGOs best known for dealing with populations that include possible victims of trafficking. Most of these organizations receive support and/or cooperation from the Moroccan government, in particular the Secretariat for Family, Solidarity, and Social Action:

Association Bayti
Dr. Najat M'jid
Km. 12.5, Ancienne route de Rabat
Sidi Bernoussi, Casablanca
Tel: (212) 22-75-69-65/66
Bayti focuses its work on street children, rehabilitating and educating runaways, child prostitutes, and indigents.

Centre Lalla Meriam
Mrs. Benaich
2, Rue Souktani
Rabat
Tel: (212) 37-20-13-93 and (212) 37-73-03-02
This center works with single mothers, many of them child maids, and abandoned babies.

Ikram
Mrs. Bennani
Tel: (212) 22-36-60-98

CASABLANCA 00000232 018 OF 019

Ikram runs a program for young women in the 15-16 year old range to train them to become "certified" domestic servants and child-care workers.

La Ligue Marocaine de la Protection de l'Enfance (LMPE)
Mrs. Fatima Hassar, Présidente centrale
Ave Akrach/Rue Mellouza, Nahda II,

Quartier Haut Souissi, Rabat
Rabat

Tel: (212) 37-75-03-10

LMPE (the Moroccan League for the Protection of Infancy or the Children's Protection League) was founded in 1957 with a focus on helping abandoned or other vulnerable children. It conducted the first study of child maids in Morocco, released in November 1995. LMPE operates day care centers, emergency medical centers, literacy training and clubs for poor children and their families. It is also one of the NGOs participating in the child maids project in Casablanca.

Institut Natl. de Solidarit avec les Femmes en Dtresse
(INSAF)

F)

Mrs. Meriem Othmani, President
20 bis, rue de Peronne

Casablanca

Tel: (212) 22-40-12-22

INSAF (National Institute for Solidarity with Women in Distress), established November 1999, is the successor to a local affiliate of Swiss-based Terre des Hommes. It assists single mothers by providing a shelter and several "halfway homes" (apartments) in Casablanca. It also helps them become more independent through education and training, while caring for their infants and children in day care centers. It will be expanding its activities to target child maids specifically for sex education, as this population constitutes a significant number of rape victims and unwed mothers.

Observatoire Nationale des Droits de l'Enfant (ONDE)

Dr. El Malki Tazi, President

B.P. 511, Rabat Chellah

Rabat

Tel. (212) 37-75-50-99, fax 37-75-53-43

ONDE (the National Observatory for Children's Rights) operates a child abuse hotline (24/7), has organized children's rights publicity campaigns with support from UNICEF, and has a "one village-one well" campaign to reduce

CASABLANCA 00000232 019 OF 019

the labor burden on children and families of fetching water.

Solidarit Feminine

Mrs. Aicha Echanna

10, Rue Mingard

Palmier, Casablanca

Tel: (212) 22-25-46-46

This large NGO is an advocate of women's rights, but its director has worked on rehabilitating prostitutes and spearheaded an effort to publicize the plight of child maids.

¶60. (U) Sources for this report include officials in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. Other sources included NGOs, international organizations and other child welfare advocates; researchers; Ministry of Justice publications; press reports; and prior reporting.

¶61. (U) Mission POC on TIP issues is Amy M. Wilson, Labor/Political Officer, ConGen Casablanca, tel. 212-22-22-14-60, ext. 235; fax 212-22-29-91-36; mail: PSC 74, Box 24, APO, AE 09718; pouch: 6280 Casablanca Place, Washington, DC 20521-6280; e-mail: WilsonAM(at symbol)state.gov.

¶62. Embassy Rabat cleared this message.

GREENE